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Council eyes removing log chute eyesore

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

The fate of the Hawk Lake Log Chute is once again up for debate. During an Aug. 14 council meeting, Chris Card, Parks, Recreation, and Trails Manager for Algonquin Highlands brought the topic

to the table. "It is in a state of complete disrepair at this point," said Card.

In April of this year, council requested that they reach out to Hawk River Construction for a quote on the deconstruction of the historic log chute.

Parks Canada said that the removal of the structure would not impact the water

at their dam, but did advise that it would affect water levels and properties downstream. In order to remove the log chute, the water levels would need to come down, noted Card. With the unpredictability of weather, he recommended that the chute be disassembled in June of next year.

While council had previously determined that the replacement of the log chute could coincide with the replacement of Parks Canada's dam, they have said that they may not be working on the dam for 10 years.

In the past, kayakers have paddled

see LOG CHUTE page 13



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Select spaces open for locals to beat the heat

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

For the bulk of last week, Haliburton County was in a dramatic heat wave. On Aug. 8, the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit and Peterborough Public Health took to social media issuing an extended heat warning.

“The Health Unit is taking protective action by alerting the public of extreme heat events to prevent and reduce heat-related illnesses and direct community response and outreach to at-risk and priority populations,” said the press release.

It was noted that a heat warning is issued when the daytime temperature is expected to be 31°C or higher, with a minimum overnight low of 20°C or higher, for two consecutive days. A heat warning can also be issued when the humidex is forecast to be 40 or higher for two consecutive days.

With daytime temperatures nearing 40 °C last week, the warning was warranted. Heat-related illnesses such as dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke can be very dangerous, especially to those most vulnerable to health risks including people who work outdoors, people who are unhoused, elderly and some people with disabilities or chronic diseases, people who are pregnant, and children and infants. “Residents are strongly encouraged to check in on neighbours and family, particularly those who may be at higher risk,” urged the local Health Unit.

Yet with many individuals lacking access to air conditioning, the need for cooling centres has become prevalent.

With the still-fairly-new S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden, staff have opted into utilizing the space during the

off-season to provide a respite from the temperatures. The facility is available seven days a week, from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. (with the exception of holidays,) and the

Director of the community services department, Candace McGuigan, noted that they are open for business. “People can come and cool off in the main lobby area to beat the heat,” she said.

In Dysart, there are other options. “We have the Haliburton Welcome Centre open seven days a week,” said municipal clerk Mallory Bishop. “It is air conditioned, has washrooms, seats and a water fountain and some very friendly staff to chat with while you cool down.”

Bishop noted that the Dysart arena is also open, which is equipped with seats, a water fountain, washrooms and is comfortably cool, though is only open during regular business hours.

Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East do not have specific locations where they are directing residents to cool down, but have encouraged individuals to visit their local libraries, which are located across each municipality. These facilities are air conditioned, and are open through the week and on Saturdays, but closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Larger city centres tend to have access to cooling spaces with prolonged hours, but local municipal staff recognize that for that to be made possible, staffing would be a requirement. “Any request to have a building staffed after hours would need to be made to council through correspondence or a delegation,” confirmed Bishop.

Cooler temperatures are forecasted for the coming days, and Environment Canada pulled their heat warning the morning of Aug. 13.



Feast of food
Till Death BBQ serves-up some tasty barbecue during Abbey Gardens’ first-ever food festival on Saturday, Aug. 16. /ADAM FRISK staff



An Into the Blue Pizza staff member slides another pie into a wood-fired oven during Abbey Gardens’ first-ever food festival on Saturday.



People sample various products as vendors at the Food Festival.



Five-year-old entrepreneur, Layla Sammak, smiles at her famous Melonade booth

Ground breaks for Minden housing

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Many would note the construction at the intersection of Highway 35 and 21, next to the Minden Legion.

While speculations were flying on social media, Deputy Mayor for Minden Hills, Lisa Schell, took to Facebook to clarify any concerns. "Lots of people are asking what is happening beside the Minden Legion?" she said, before citing information directly from the Kawartha Lakes-Haliburton Housing Corporation (KLHHC).

She noted that the developers are undertaking an affordable housing project, based on a recent \$2.4 million provincial funding announcement that came in January of this year. "This project is part of a larger effort to address the need for affordable housing in the area," she quoted in the post, "with plans for 64 new units in total."

Word of this initiative first became public in January of this year, immediately before the provincial election was called by Premier Doug Ford.

On Jan. 28, MPP Laurie Scott held a prompt and last-minute press conference at the Minden Legion site, which was attended by Minden Mayor Bob Carter and Deputy Warden Liz Danielsen. The grant announcement was following an ask from KLHHC for funding for two locations, one in Minden and one in Lindsay.

At that cold January press conference, Scott announced

that both grants would be fulfilled, with \$2.4 million going towards Minden.

This came as a part of the provincial announcement to contribute \$75.5 million to municipalities to "restore safety to parks and public places," according to Laurie Scott's website.

"Our government has delivered significant support to municipalities to address the challenges encampments can pose to public safety across Ontario," said Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "Mayors have asked us for additional help and we have been clear that we will provide funding to municipalities that show results in winding down these sites. We can no longer accept encampments as a place to deal with mental health and addiction issues."

The plot of land next to the Minden Legion had been donated by Bill Switzer, who approached Carter in 2018 about using the plot to fill in the housing gaps, ever-present in the village of Minden. The land travels next to Rotary Park, and alongside the Gull River behind the Minden Legion.

As of early last week, ground has been broken on the properties, and construction is going ahead.

Both the Township of Minden Hills and KLHHC were approached for clarification around details and timelines of the build, but neither responded to the inquiries at the time of press.

Further developments will be shared as they become available.



Winners of the golf tournament were Jason Chambers, Tim Chambers, Johnny Jackson, and Tom Taylor. /submitted.

H.A.V.E. raises \$22,500 for clean water

On Aug. 14, Help A Village Effort hosted its fifth Ron Reid H.A.V.E. Charity Golf Tournament at the Gull River Golf Course in Minden. Board chair, Michele Coneybeare said, "we are very proud to share that \$22,500 was raised. This amount will allow H.A.V.E. to build nine wells in rural villages in India." Coneybeare said each well impacts approximately 600 people, and most wells are installed in villages with schools. "We are empowering communities with the 'gift of clean water,

one village at a time.' She added, "we want to extend a big thank you to our very generous golf hole sponsors, prize donors, the many individuals who donated money and to our enthusiastic golfers. Once again, thank you to Kegel Heating and Cooling for being the tournament sponsor." Next year's tournament is Aug. 13.

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Call For Artwork: Pump It Up Project

Dysart et al Cultural Resources Committee is
calling out to artists to submit 2D visual
artwork, either existing or new, to be used as
images for vinyl wraps for sewage pumping
stations located in the Village of Haliburton.

Award of \$400 per artwork selected.

Theme: Nature and the Outdoors.

Submission deadline: Friday, August 22, 2025

Details and link to submission form
www.dysartet.ca/pumpitup



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The view from Skyline Park shows drought-stricken trees beginning to change colour on Aug. 14. /ADAM FRISK staff



People take in the view at Head Lake Park as dried trees begin to turn colour on Aug 17.

Fall is in the air: Stressed trees already turning colour

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

Hints of fall have started to decorate the county with autumn colours appearing on the skyline as drought-stricken trees begin to change and drop some leaves. The hot and dry summer is paving the way for an “early” fall as some trees have

started to pepper the county with brown and yellow colours. “So what’s happening is that trees are programmed this way,” Shaun Watmough, professor at Trent University’s School of the Environment, said in an interview. “When trees still have leaves, these tiny pores called stomata are open and allow carbon dioxide to go into the leaf but at the same time they lose water. “So when you have drought condi-

tions, the trees can’t afford that water loss, they’ll die. So it’s a way of preserving the water loss by early senescence,” the professor said. Premature leaf drop, or early senescence, can be triggered by various factors including excessive rainfall, or in the case of much of eastern Ontario, drought. “So the reason the leaves are changing colour is because they are reabsorbing some of the pigments. So chlorophyll, for example, which gives trees their green colour, gets reabsorbed but some of the other pigments, the trees can’t reabsorb them quite as easily so that’s why we get the varying colours.”

The professor said the colours are species specific, noting that birch trees usually turn yellow and the maples can turn bright red. And once the tree begins to turn colour, there’s no going back regardless of rainfall. “Once they start it basically sets off signals that go on within the plant and they have already absorbed the chlorophyll, they’re already on their way.

“Fall colours have come early,” Watmough said. Watmough said that because it’s been so dry, the change in leaves might be about two weeks earlier in the region but the changeover is really dependent on the local conditions.

Matt Mayr, ISA certified arborist with DaveyTree Expert, said given the conditions the trees have endured in the county, there’s no question that many trees have started the fall process. “Plants prioritize water for essential functions, so chlorophyll production and photosynthesis begins to decrease,” the arborist said. “So what we can get sometimes is early leaf dying and dull fall colour, so like the yellowing or the brown foliage, wilting and premature leaf drop.

“So it’s not out of the question that the leaves start to change colour early because they’re running out of chlorophyll because the tree is using the water for other functions,” Mayr explained.

Mayr suggested that if the hot and dry weather drags on, it could make for a shorter fall season.

“The best thing that could happen is a good dose of rain, so heavy rain over the next little while,” he said. “If you don’t get that up there, it’s very possible that it could be a shorter season.”

Fall tourism in the Haliburton Highlands plays an important role for the

“
When you have drought conditions, the trees can’t afford that water loss, they’ll die.

— Shaun Watmough, Trent University

economy and local businesses that are looking to extend beyond the typical busy months.

“Fall is becoming a really popular and busy time up in the Haliburton Highlands. We would normally see a drop off in visitation after Labour Day and then a very significant drop off after Thanksgiving,” Angelica Ingram, manager of tourism for the County of Haliburton, said. “Now we’ve noticed a shift in that, even pre-COVID, we’ve seen a shift in people lengthening the tourism season up here.

“We’re seeing people stay right up until November which is wonderful,” Ingram said.

The milder and bug-free days make for a good time for day-trippers to experience the highlands, Ingram said, but it seems to be the fall colours that really draw people to the area.

“It’s becoming a really nice time of year for the tourism sector up here and for the community because there’s lots to see and do and more and more people are coming during that time,” she said.

The fall months also help benefit the businesses that rely on the summer to sustain themselves for the off season, providing a few extra weeks to potentially bring in more income.

“It kind of comes back to sustainable tourism. For a lot of these businesses historically would have to rely on a really good and busy summer to make a lot of their money to sustain them year around,” Ingram said. “So having fall as a reliable season really helps propel them through the winter season.”

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Second race day called off

The annual power boat races came to Head Lake Park in Haliburton this past weekend, and while temperatures were comfortable, conditions were not favourable for the water sport. The boats took to the water on Saturday, but by Sunday, high winds left for some decisions to be made. "Safety of the racers is foremost our concern," said one of the organizers, Barb Hammond, noting they cancelled the Sunday races after monitoring conditions. The organizers took a plane out at 11 a.m. Sunday morning, and observed white caps on the water. They declared a 'wind delay,' but by noon, the conditions had not improved, prompting organizers to cancel the second scheduled day of races. She noted that in the past, they had made a decision to move ahead with the races, despite white caps, which resulted in broken bones for one of the racers. Pictured, racers in Head Lake Park packed up their boats on Sunday afternoon, after the day of races had officially been called off. /TIM YANO staff photographer



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The greater good

THE OTHER day, I inched my way towards a line of red brake lights around the high school.

I wasn't sure why we had stopped, and my initial response was irritation. Summer congestion on our roads plays a part in heightening frustrations.

But then I saw our reason for stopping: a lineup of geese, gradually, one by one, crossing the road. And everyone stopped.

Now I think it's a fairly common consensus that geese are not the cuddliest of Canadian critters. I myself have been chased by a goose on more than one occasion. It's a rite of passage for any great Canadian.

But still, we stopped. All of us. We took time from our day, and let these creatures cross the road.

Why? Because it was the right thing to do.

We have choices, in this life. It's one of the most beautifully complicated parts of being human.

Every day, we choose how we operate in the hustle and bustle of the world. We choose how to react, how to listen, how to learn, how to behave. And while sometimes it feels like exterior forces are pushing and pulling at our willpower, at the end of the day, it's just us.

As our county fire ban continues, we make choices for the greater good. A bonfire with a night amongst friends may not seem like a risk, but for others, it could be deadly. A cigarette butt thrown into the bush could be an innocent flick of the wrist, but still, we make a choice, thinking about the consequences of our actions.

Not because we are directly impacted, but because it's the right thing to do.

As our local Pride Week kicks off, we are reminded of our need for this week of inclusion, of care, of compassion.

And while the temperatures have changed around warming to Pride, there are still people glancing over their shoulders; a move perfected and practiced from years of feeling like prey in a carnivorous climate.

As we watch the rainbow flags adorn our communities, I myself will be there with bells on.

But others may not. And while I encourage people to think outside the black and white boxes of love, at the very least, I implore everyone to quite simply care. You don't need to fly the flags or sing the songs, but we can be welcoming, be kind, be inclusive.

Because that's what benefits the greater good.

In a world where we are faced with choices, every single day, it's up to us to turn our heads towards the light, and leave the shadows of the past in our wake. There are choices we make that have the power to play a part in someone's life, whether that be around fire safety, community inclusion, or yes, even geese.

And it's up to us to put others first, to think about the greater good, and to exude care and consideration in the process.

Not because these choices necessarily directly impact us.

But because it's the right thing to do.



Emily Stonehouse

Editorial

A cause of sore eyes

THIS WEEK, I'm writing this article through a nasty bout of eye strain. I've suffered from eye strain off and on since university, mostly brought on by increased computer work for studying and assignments – the dreaded screen time. Today, I spend most of my working day at a computer and then spend much of my free time reading and researching, playing games, and writing this column – all on a screen.

Usually, I can pinpoint where I've overdone things, and when I have, I know what to do about it. Maybe it was starting a fun new game or reading a compelling series of e-books on my phone instead of from my to-read pile of more eye-friendly physical books. Our reliance on screens

for work and leisure comes with some real physiological consequences. The good news is, there are things you can do to mitigate the physical effects of time spent on your devices, whatever the purpose you're using them for.

While eye strain is nothing new, the use of screens has seen a rise in what optometrists have started calling digital eye strain or computer vision syndrome. Symptoms include dry eyes, headaches, tired eyes, increased eye watering, and blurred vision. Some of this is caused by decreased blinking when doing screen work – while we blink on average 17 times per minute, that decreases when concentrating to as low as four times per minute. Also, when we are doing close up work, our eyes turn inward to focus. This strains the muscles that control our eyes, and can be

made worse if, like me, you wear prescription glasses for distance.

The Canadian Association of Optometrists recommends following the 20-20-20 rule when working on a screen – every 20 minutes look away from your screen for 20 seconds at something 20 feet away. This allows your eyes to relax, giving them a much-needed break. They also suggest using artificial tears, blinking more, and making sure your screen isn't too close (computer monitors should be an arm's length away and just below your eye level – 20 degrees if you want to break out your protractor). The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety also suggests ensuring that you have adequate lighting, as well as eliminating glare by properly angling monitors.

Many smart phones have features that help reduce eye strain, including reducing the amount of blue light they emit. Special coatings on glasses can also help with this as well. Some optometrists also suggest warm compresses for the eyes to relax muscles and increase tear production. However, in my experience, ensuring you take adequate breaks from what you are doing is the most effective way to help prevent and relieve screen related eye strain. Of course, any new eye symptoms should prompt a visit to your eye doctor so that they can give you specific advice on your situation and make sure there's nothing more serious going on.

Screen time can also displace other types of activity, encouraging sedentary behaviour. A number of physical complaints including joint and back pain have been attributed to prolonged sitting. Neck, shoulder, and elbow pain have been attributed to excessive smart phone use. The "sitting is the new smoking" panic that started in 2011 led to the popularity of standing desks, and while they can be beneficial, excessive standing can come with its own problems. In a well-sourced article on the subject, Paul Ingraham of PainScience.com argues that scientific literature supports consistent movement breaks, movement encouraging range of motion, and working in a variety of positions to help combat the physical effects of sitting. This likely holds true for any activity that encourages being locked into one position, such as holding your smart phone for a long time, or gripping a gaming controller, or using a mouse.

Recent studies have also been encouraging for those of us who might struggle to work out multiple days per week. For those who can't make it to a gym regularly, access fitness classes, or participate in sports, all isn't lost. Rather, some daily movement is better than no movement, and there's merit to breaking up exercise into microbreaks throughout the day if that's what you can fit in. More activity is, of course, better within reason. But concentrating on movement you enjoy and that you can fit into your busy life goes much farther than we often give it credit for.

Screens are a part of our modern lives. When we start to feel physical discomfort, we should listen to our bodies. This might mean decreasing your screen time where practical in favour of screenless activities or at least incorporating adequate breaks and exercise. Like with most things, mindfulness and moderation help. And the warm compress I'm going to go put on my eyes now.

Humans & Technology



Erin Kernohan-Berning

points of view

Required reading

I'M NOT the kind of person who endorses products on social media – mostly because no one asks.

But, the other day, while wasting time on Instagram, I saw a post from the world-famous Bitzenburger Fletching Jigs company.

Fletching is an archery term that describes gluing feathers or plastic vanes to arrows. Bitzenburger happens to make the finest fletching jigs out there.

Not to brag, but I happen to have a Bitzenburger jig, and I can testify that it makes the arrow-making process so much faster, easier, and better. I'm a real fan.

That's why, when the company posted a picture of the very jig that I proudly own, along with the question, "Who's building arrows for the upcoming season?" I could not help but be the first to respond.

The good news is this time I took the time to read my reply before I pressed the send button. That was fortunate because my original post had a bit of a typo. Look carefully and see if you can spot it.



Loon Tales

Steve
Galea

My initial response to the post – the one with the typo – was, "Yes. I love your jugs!"

To be clear, what I meant to type was "Yes. I love your jigs."

And luckily, that's what I ended up sending them.

Yet, it was a very close call.

I could have inadvertently sent out a social media reply that was cringy to say the least.

Frankly, I blame it on the inventor of the computer key-

board, the person who placed the U and the I keys right next to each other– which I would now argue was with malicious intent.

Luckily, I foiled their plot by reading my reply before sending. In doing so, I saved myself a lot of embarrassment and ridicule.

Look, this is not something that I am proud of. Nevertheless, if my column is anything, I believe it should serve as a warning on the pitfalls of being an older man in the social media age.

Specifically, in this case, I think it could and should serve as a lesson to those of us who fire out emails, texts, and posts or responses on social media without a sober second look. That lesson is read before you send.

Just think of how I would have been perceived, if my initial reply was sent out without me correcting it. At the very least it would have sullied my good name with the fine folks at Bitzenburger and their nearly 2,400 followers. It might have even got me banned from the page. At the worst, it might have solicited a stern response from their Human Resources department or a weird one from Marvin in Social Media. The scariest part to me is that I would have likely never read my reply again, so it would have lived on the internet for eternity, thereby leaving any future genealogists with an unfortunate detail to pass along to my progeny.

("My great-great-great-great-grandfather? I'd rather not talk about him ...")

Believe it or not, I'm a little embarrassed just relaying this story – even though it was averted and an honest mistake. So, let me be clear: I would never condone or use a horrible sentence such as that one.

I'm sure you wouldn't either. Yet, if you are not careful and send things out without giving them a final edit, you can get yourself into a lot of unnecessary trouble. And that can be really shutty.



pic of the past

This lookout has not yet been identified. It is from an undated pamphlet for the Haliburton Highlands created by the local chamber of commerce. Underneath it reads: "Always beautiful – spring, summer, fall and winter. Land of rugged rocks, woods and forests, hundreds of crystal clear lakes, waterfalls, meandering streams and rivers. Altitude around 1,200 feet means warm days, cool nights and no hay fever! ... Little wonder painters and photographers return year after year." /FILE

First impressions

WHEN LINDA accepted the invitation, she hadn't really known what to expect. Never having been a cottage guest, she anticipated lakes, trees and wild animals roaming about.

Needless to say, the reality was a little different. Yes there were lakes full of water for swimming, diving and maybe even fishing. But why did the water have to be so cold? And yes there were many, many trees. But did they have to crowd so close to the road that she couldn't see anything else but a wall of green?

The wild animals were another thing altogether. The first morning all she could smell was a skunk as she made her way to the outhouse. Ah yes – the outhouse. Her friend Sal told her they were fortunate to have a two-seater which meant 'no waiting'.

It was all so unusual, so rustic, so unexpected. The cottage was small and neat with old bare floors, furniture and dishes that didn't match and lots of windows overlooking the lake. Trees raucous with red squirrels pushed up against the walls and insects hummed in the vegetation leading down to the water.

Upon first arriving Friday evening, Linda had been surprised and frankly, not impressed. From all she had heard from Sal, she was expecting a cross between a country estate and a tropical beach. Instead there were biting insects, lumpy beds and no television. She gave up her city bedroom and TV shows for this? The

sound of animals outside their bedroom window had been unnerving. Sal, explaining from her twin bed against the opposite wall, told Linda it was just a family of raccoons down by the lake. They came most nights, she said and the babies were very cute.

The next morning, after slathering herself with insect repellent or 'bug spray' as Sal called the smelly stuff, the two girls made their way down to the lake-

shore, towels and comics in hand. Spreading the terry cloth onto the sand, they settled down to read and chat. The spray seemed to work at keeping the biting bugs away and Linda had to admit the sand was surprisingly comfortable once she found just the right spot.

As the sun moved slowly across the flawless blue sky, the girls stopped talking and half-dozed in its warmth. The only sound was when a far-off motor boat sent ripples to their beach. The other sound, Sal explained, was a

loon in the bay.

After a while they both needed to cool off. As she followed Sal into the water, Linda was pleasantly shocked by the feel of the cool wet on her skin. Now she didn't mind the watery temperature.

Supper that night was pretty tasty and the raspberries they had picked after their swim made for a yummy dessert. The second night's sleep was solid and deep with a couple of blue jays acting as an alarm clock come morning. This wasn't going to be so bad after all, Linda decided.

Down

Our road



Sharon
Lynch

Haliburton United Way serves locals

United Way Haliburton Kawartha Lakes will be holding their Haliburton Campaign Launch on Thursday, August 28 at Carnarvon Family Golf from 1 to 4 p.m.

Come out to enjoy mini putt, the driving range, samples of Boshkung brewing's beer 'Paddle with Purpose,' and hear about past and present local projects that have been supported by United Way Haliburton Kawartha Lakes.

In the past decade, United Way Haliburton Kawartha Lakes has allocated over \$340,000 in funding and nearly 8,000 pounds of fresh produce to Haliburton County organizations. These contributions have included support for emergency COVID-19 programs, food security initiatives, programming for children and youth and programs addressing mental

health and substance use challenges.

We are also pleased to announce that we have officially changed our name to United Way Haliburton Kawartha Lakes, Shantal Ingram, Co-Executive Director of United Way Haliburton Kawartha Lakes notes, "While we have supported programs in Haliburton County for several years, it was important for us to change our name to better reflect the communities that we serve".

Carnarvon Family Golf is located at 9145 Highway 118 Carnarvon. Tickets are \$15/person and can be purchased at the launch, or in advance. To purchase tickets in advance, please visit unitedway.ca.

Submitted

Police investigate motor vehicle collision in Algonquin Highlands

The Haliburton Highlands detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is actively investigating a single-vehicle collision involving an off-road vehicle.

On Tuesday, August 5, 2025, shortly after 8:29 p.m., the Haliburton Highlands and Huntsville OPP officers responded to a report of a single motor vehicle collision. The location was on a private roadway near Dagger Lake Access Road, in Algonquin Highlands Township. Officers arrived at the scene and conducted an investigation. The driver of the off-road vehicle was the sole occupant and suffered major injuries as a result of the collision.

Emergency medical services (EMS) transported the individual to a local area hospital and later they were transferred by ORNGE Air to a Toronto area trauma centre. Technical Trained Collision Investigators (TTCI) of the Ontario Provincial Police were called in to assist in the investigation.

tion.

The investigation into the cause of the collision is ongoing.

If you have an information that can assist police, you can call the non-emergency number for the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or report online at www.khcrimestoppers.com.

Submitted



Masons help out

In Ontario, masonry is composed of 38 districts each with a District Deputy Grand Master. Their duty is to represent the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. A new DDGM is elected in each district every year. For the year 2024-25, R.W.

Brother Jim Jones was elected to represent Victoria District, a duty which he accomplished very successfully. R.W.

Brother Jones is a member of Arcadia Masonic Lodge in Minden. Each year the DDGM picks a charity and money is raised during his tenure for that particular charity. R.W. Jones selected for his charity the "Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding Association" located on Spring Valley Road in Minden. On Friday, August 11, R.W. Jones and members of Arcadia Lodge were present at the farm, where a cheque in the amount of \$8,000 was given to Jennifer Semach, founder of the organization. Hopefully, this will help them carry on their very valuable work in our community. /Submitted by R.W.B. Gareth Kellett, lodge historian.



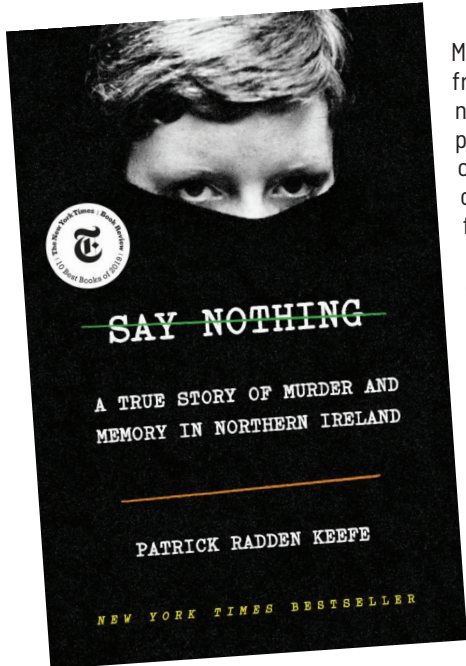
Minden Memories



Built in 1905 on Boshkung Lake Road south of Halls Lake, this church originally served a Methodist congregation. Though similar to St. Peter's Church at Maple Lake, it was likely built by stonemason King, who also built the nearby Hewitt house. The land was donated by Thomas and Ann Goodwin (Davis), who are buried in the adjacent cemetery. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre



Book of the Week



December 1972, Belfast. Jean McConville, a mother of ten, is taken from her home by masked intruders, never to be seen again. Her disappearance, blamed on the I.R.A., becomes one of the darkest moments of The Troubles, a conflict marked by fear and silence.

Decades later, in 2003, her remains are found on a beach, confirming the tragic truth for her children. Using this case, Patrick Radden Keefe explores a society torn apart by guerilla war, where the line between justice and murder remains painfully blurred long after the violence has ended.

Say Nothing by Patrick Radden Keefe is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. To place a hold or learn more, visit haliburtonlibrary.ca.

Extreme heat, dry conditions taking a toll this summer

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

The extreme heat and tinder-dry conditions are beginning to take a toll this summer as the drought drags on in the county.

With the scorching sun and dry skies farmers in the area are really feeling the heat this year as the county remains in the grip of a prolonged period of hot, dry weather.

In the midst of a heat warning from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), cultivators and other vendors began setting up for the weekly Farmers' Market at Head Lake Park under the blistering morning sun.

As Barb Fisher began setting up her booth, the harvester explained that this year has been really hit and miss for her crops.

"You know, it's amazing how some things are doing, we've put up a lot of plastic with drip lines underneath so we can water, our pond has gone down quite a bit," Fisher explained in an Aug. 12 interview. "Our beans, you can't water them and it's amazing how they're doing in this heat."

"The corn, too. It's filling out but it's not chubbing up," the Janetville farmer said.

As of Aug. 12, only 2.6 millimetres of rain had been recorded at ECCC's Bancroft weather station for the month. July saw 35.1 millimetres of rain while June recorded 57.2 millimetres.

For more than a week, the region had been basking under a relentless sun, with daily temperatures climbing into the high 20s and the low 30s. The humidex made it feel even hotter, with values pushing 40.

HighlandMaples is also feeling the heat on the farm with the grass drying up and having to bring in hay for the animals.

"And hay is hard to find right now because it is now drying up," Sheldon Lewis said. "Which means it's more expensive, it's just a big rotation now."

With the added costs because of the weather, Lewis said he isn't passing on the additional costs to the customer just yet.

"At this point I think I have to swallow it, but who knows what's going to happen in a week's time or two

weeks' time," he said.

The farmer also noted that he's never seen a summer like this before.

"It's very hot this year and very dry," Lewis said.

McLean Berry Farm is also in a bit of a jam this year after a decent berry season.

"We were able to irrigate the berries so they are doing all right, and we got through the season but our other field crops like the corn and everything it's pretty hard," Cindy Leahy said. "It's going to be a season that will probably be over earlier than we expected just because of the drought unless we get rain."

The extreme heat is also posing a risk to public health. The Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit issued a heat warning, advising residents to stay hydrated, limit outdoor activities during the hottest parts of the day, and check on vulnerable family and neighbours.

In response to the extremely dry conditions, a total fire ban for the county remains in place as tinder-dry conditions continue as at least three wildfires burn just outside of the county.

Water levels at Rotary Beach have drastically decreased during the drought-like conditions, exposing sandbars and reducing the designated swimming area at the public docks, with the floating markers resting in sand.

The ongoing weather pattern can be attributed to a lack of thunderstorms and low-pressure systems, which has resulted in lower than normal precipitation for much of eastern Ontario.

While the forecast had shown a glimmer of hope with a couple of chances of showers last week, those chances quickly evaporated, producing little to no rainfall.



Beaver by Tammy Nash. For more nature photos pick up this week's County Life.



DANI SHE/HER



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mvp's

With the Tuesday storm looming far off to the south and everyone's ears tuned for even the faintest sound of approaching thunder, the match carried on with the hope that a passing shower might roll in and cool the waves of heat rising from the soccer pitch. Thursday's game, in contrast, brought nothing but relentless heat from start to finish, making it feel hot hot hot! While the extreme temperature tends to result in fewer players actively running the field at any given time, this gives coaches the opportunity to concentrate on more personalized and focused drills for the athletes. The smaller scale of play also encourages some of the quieter and more reserved players to move beyond their comfort zones, pushing themselves to explore new strategies, take more risks, and ultimately reach exciting new heights in their game-play.

Submitted by Andrew Brown



Calvin Brown and Sebastian Dart - Boys 10-13 - Kegel Kickers



Britta Ritchie and Jesse Lowes - Co-ed - 4-6 - White Team



Oliver Sisco - Boys 10-13 - Grassroot Strikers



Griffin Darling - Boys 10-13 - Haliburton Crew United



Carter Ouellette - Girls 10-11 - White Team



Frances Gilmour - Girls 7-9 - Kiwi Team

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mvp's



Conner Guyatt & Colton Guyatt - Boys 7-9 - Purple Team



Griffin Hunt - Boys 10-13 - Media Platform Inc's Trail Blazers



June Judson - Girls 10-11 - Navy Team



Finn Ball - Co-ed 4-9 - Teal Team



Leila Geary - Girls 7-9 - Royal Blue Team



Leanne Rowsell-Szajda - Girls 7-9 - Purple Team



Ruby Walt - Girls 7-9 - Royal Blue Team

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Andrew Brown

River Cone rings in 30 years
Ann Drake and Jeff Davies enjoy a coffee at the River Cone which was celebrating its 30th anniversary on Saturday, Aug. 16. /THOMAS SMITH staff



Above: Ben Scott, owner of the River Cone, sizzles up some snacks on the hot day.



Left, Joslynn Burford smiles while playing reggae tunes at the Minden River Cone's 30th anniversary celebration and Highland Vibes Fest.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

August 21 – Special Meeting of Closed Session
August 28 – Regular Council Meeting
September 11 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AND CLOSED SESSION

Take Notice there will be a Special Meeting of Council consisting of a Closed Session Meeting on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Township of Minden Hills Council Chambers (7 Milne St., Minden).

The purpose of the closed session meeting is for Education and Training, pursuant to section 239(3.1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, regarding Asset Management.

Dated this 13th day of August 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Vicki Bull, Clerk
705-286-1260 Ext. 515
admin@mindenhills.ca

In Case of Emergency Dial 911 / After-Hours Municipal Emergency Dial 1-866-856-3247

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- *Of Light and Life*, a new exhibit by world renowned artist Michael Dumas, is on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until September 13. The exhibit features over 70 original works, spanning the last 70 years. Copies of Michael's recently published book *Algonquin Legacy - The Art of Michael Dumas* are available for sale in the Gallery. For more information: <https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2025-07-22-1000-Of-Light-and-Life-A-Solo-Exhibition-by-Michael-Dum>
- The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is pleased to partner with Pride in the Highlands for the 2nd annual Voice of Pride Art Exhibition, curated by local artist Scott Michael Walling. The exhibit will be on display from August 12 to 30. The Artist Opening Reception will be held at the on Friday, August 22 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.
- Pride in the Highlands activities are taking place at the Cultural Centre. *Any Other Way: The Jackie Shane Story*, documentary screening on August 19 at 12:30 pm, ctrl-ART-dlt dramatic reading on August 21 at 5:30 pm, Disney's *Strange World*, Friday Afternoon movie on August 22 at 1 pm.
- The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place are open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm! Daily drop-in programs are offered at 11 am. Coming up later this week: Thursday – Curious Minds (Bee Curious), Friday – Toddler Discovery Zone at 11 am and Ice-cream Making at 2 pm, Saturday – Hand Puppets. For a complete list of August programs: <https://www.mindenhills.ca/en/News/media-release-25-82-august-drop-in-programs-and-activities-schedule.aspx>

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

FALL REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for fall fitness and youth registered programs. Take a look at the full list of options online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS

Our next Household Hazardous Waste event is Saturday September 20 — and it's the final event in Minden for 2025. There are still five more events in Haliburton County for 2025. Minden Hills residents can attend any of these Household Hazardous Waste events.

For dates and locations, visit mindenhills.ca/hazardouswaste Visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers for more information and how to apply

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AH discusses Fire Master Plan

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

On Thursday, Aug. 14, Terry Gervais of the Loomex Group presented their Fire Master Plan to Algonquin Highlands Council.

Reviews of the Fire Master Plan (FMP) are recommended by the Loomex Group to take place every year and the township should fully revise it every five years. The guiding principles that were considered in developing the FMP included the safety of both firefighters and residents, cost-effectiveness of fire services, identifying unnecessary future costs, and facts that guided decisions and recommendations.

The FMP needs to comply with the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, provide a clear picture of current and projected needs, recommend strategies to increase public education, code enforcement, fire suppression services and to provide information to guide administration, operational, and budgetary decisions.

Notably, Algonquin Highlands representatives involved with the development of the FMP included CAO Angie Bird, Mayor Liz Danielsen, Fire Chief Michael French, Training Officer Chris Shelly, and other officers and firefighters with AH Fire Services.

The three lines of fire defence include public education, code enforcement, and fire suppression.

Gervais says that the fleets of vehicles, staff, and lat-

est equipment involved with fire suppression may not be the ultimate solution. In fact, public education is the most important and the cheapest option.

"We realized in the last 20 years in the fire services, it is not the only way to provide fire protection services for your community," said Gervais. "In fact, it is the most expensive."

He also noted that Ontario's bylaws are vital for saving lives when it comes to fire safety.

There were 29 recommendations presented in the FMP.

Of the 29, Gervais highlighted recruitment and retention, proper PPE, fire station renovations to reduce off-gassing, standardizing procedures for AH fire service's water rescue program, leveraging new technologies, and looking at a replacement for Station 60-Dorset.

"My initial feeling about the plan itself is that we are already moving ahead with some of the recommendations you are making," said AH Mayor Liz Danielsen.

Noting that she feels the fire services are on track with their recommendations, Danielsen asked Gervais if he considers their services to be compliant with the set standards, to which Gervais confirmed.

With Danielsen asking for any red flags, Gervais said that AH's fire facilities and prevention aspects deserved the most attention.

AH fire staff have already begun implementing some changes and council plans to keep track of recommendations that have been completed.

AH makes moves towards Indigenous Garden

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

In February of 2024, Algonquin Highlands announced the acquisition of the Dorset Pavilion and Community Park, donated by longtime cottagers Don Tapscott C.M. and Ana Lopes C.M. AH promised an Indigenous Garden in the park as part of the deal, created in collaboration with members of the Indigenous community.

Chris Card, the trails manager for Algonquin Highlands, went to council to propose hiring a consultant from Four Directions of Conservation Consulting Services, the same consultant that worked with the township in developing their land acknowledgement statement.

It is an exciting opportunity as it will involve driving to a community and speaking with individuals, says Card.

Who is a part of this community, whether or not they want to be engaged, how they would like to be engaged, and what this process should look like needs to be considered, noted Card.

The services are quoted as being \$8,000, but this was not a part of AH's 2025 budget.

"From my perspective, I'd like to see us move forward with this," said Mayor Liz Danielsen. "I'd like to do this project under our own steam and get our commitment to the Tapscott and Lopes family taken care of."

Danielsen brought up a partnership with the Haliburton County Master Gardeners. Ward Two Councillor Lisa Barry recommended that if there is an involvement by the Master Gardeners, that there is some type of leadership from an Indigenous person.

"The best option is planting in the spring," noted Danielsen.

Card mentioned to the council members that they are still unsure what the garden will end up looking like and what purpose it will have. Once they have conversed with people who have Indigenous connections to the area, the garden may be one that is harvestable or ornamental. They are unsure of the outcome as of this council meeting.

Council approved getting help from the consultant with the funds for the consulting service coming from the appropriate reserves.

Log chute deemed a 'cultural asset' for AH

from page 1

down the log chute, and it remains a popular tourist site. The longer they take action for the site, the bigger the liability becomes.

Hawk River Construction estimates that the project would take five days and it would cost the municipality over \$53,000.

AH Mayor Liz Danielsen asked if they had employed a structural engineer look at the log chute to assess if they needed to have the whole chute removed, or only portions. Card said that they have not done so.

"We have some time," said Danielsen. "Obviously, we are not going to do anything this year as far as removal. We have got some time to think."

Deputy Mayor Dailloux brought up the desire to rebuild the log chute in the future.

"The chances of that happening are quite slim," said Dailloux. "It is hard to put any faith in the next two councils from now, putting their attention towards the rebuild."

Dailloux asked if there is a portion that can be preserved and on display, noting its cultural importance.

"We could go that route," said Card. "Just standing there looking at it, the log chute is in shambles. There are pieces all over the place."

Card notes that while discussing the chute with staff

on site, they watched a piece of the chute fall off and travel downstream.

Danielsen is adamant that a portion of the log chute is preserved.

"It is an extremely important cultural asset," said Danielsen. "There has been a lot of work done by a lot of people and a lot of work done and money raised by people outside of the municipality."

Danielsen says that she has been talking about the log chute at some AH lake associations. Some associations have mentioned that they are interested in raising funds to replace the log chute.

"If it's possible to have something retained, it leaves the opportunity to show that it is a rehabilitation project in process," said Ward Two Councillor Lisa Barry. "Even if that means continuing to put money in our reserve, have a fundraising effort, or having input from the group who were actually involved with the build of it."

Danielsen said that she would like to have an engineer look at the log chute this year, using funds saved specifically for the site.

"This could be our Hail Mary attempt to save what we've got," said Dailloux. "It is worth the investment. We have got to give it one last try before saying goodbye forever."

Council concluded that they will be having an engineer look at the site.

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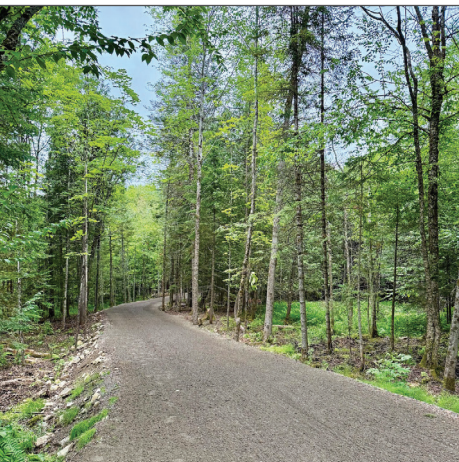
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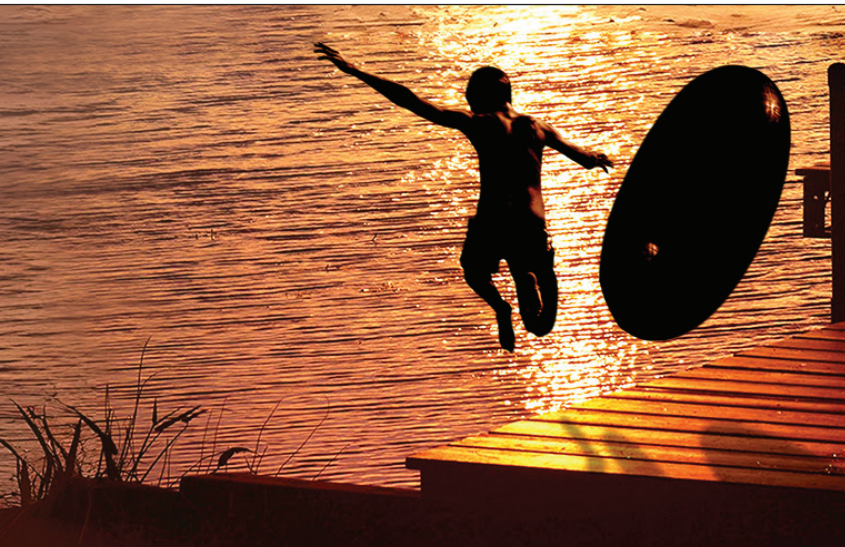
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Unfortunately, after 2 hour wind delay Sunday race had to be cancelled due to the safety of racers. Toronto Outdoor Racing Club apologizes for all those who came Sunday to see the races



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REAL ESTATE



The joys of camp, without the bugs

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Carving their own path through cutting-edge contemporary theatre in Haliburton County, Ctrl-ART-Del's latest production, *The Grown Ups* by Simon Henriques and Skylar Fox was performed at the Haliburton Legion from Aug. 14 to 17.

The play delves into the question we all faced while growing up: what does it mean to be a grown-up?

The play is set at Camp Indigo Woods, located in the Northeastern United States.

Walking into the Haliburton Legion, the camp signs for Indigo Woods and directions to crucial camp locations like the beach and mess hall throw me into a spiral of nostalgia. I can smell the sunscreen on everyone's skin, see the log cabin's pine boards and hear the crackling of the fire amidst laughter. I am instantly transported back to the days at summer camp, anxious about the person I may become.

In the middle of the Legion's floor, turf is laid down with a campfire pit in the centre of it. Camp chairs are strewn about, with the audience sitting in rows of two chairs, surrounding the campfire area just like the campers would.

The program reminds the audience that while they cannot change the text of the play, they encourage people to envision the play set in New Brunswick, with the insurrection-esque events taking place in Alberta and moving eastward.

While assisting the youngest campers through "growing moments," the counsellors face issues with growing up themselves, like feeling love, dealing with the latest viral memes, and how to talk to child content creators.

Between scary stories of the Neversleeper told around the campfire and live updates of a viral Dawne "The Rock" Johnson pineapple look-alike meme that caught the attention of a truth-seeking radicalized far right group, it is hard to tell what is scarier; the monsters that lurk at camp, or the monsters that lurk politically.

It is not lost on me that this play was chosen due to its resonance with Haliburton County's plethora of summer camps. A line about the campers swarming Minden's Kawartha Dairy would not be out of place in this play. The name Camp Indigo Woods itself is due to the camp's desire to re-brand itself away from a colonized version of an Indigenous word.

While I will not name any camps, I can recall many roads having to be renamed in Haliburton County in the past few decades.

Playwrights Henriques and Fox attempt to give us grown-ups a glimpse into what may be running through the minds of Zoomers and Generation Alpha.

Written in the aftermath of the events of Jan. 6, *The Grown Ups* is like a swelling storm throughout the course of the play. Both emotionally and apocalyptically.

The loveable Brody Bolger plays Lukas, a character that I keep leading to describe as a goofball. While exceptionally funny, Lukas' charm and comedy reminds me of the confusion that comes with growth and maturity. As the only man around the fire, Lukas is refreshingly unashamed to admit when he is wrong, or when circumstances are in his favour. I was fortunate enough to see Bolger's expressions in some scenes when he was talking face to face with other characters. I will say through his facial expressions alone, I was cracking up laughing. Words did not have to be spoken to make me chuckle. It seemed the audience members across the campfire from me were not fortunate enough to witness his antics.

Olivia Humphries, in the role of Aidan - the older sister, and most senior camp counsellor - played the role to a tee. The connection to her and another notable character came as a big surprise, which is what any big sister would ever want; to not let others know she has a little sister. Every one of her entrances demanded my attention. Near the beginning, it was her call for order with the counsellors. Throughout the play, her control over the camp slips more and more. While unfortunate for Aidan, her loss of control and sanity was a delight to witness while performed by Humphries.

It came as a shock to learn that *The Grown Ups* was Poppy Ellenberger's first performance with Ctrl-ART-Del. From Ellenberger's entrance as Maeve, covered with stickers, Maeve is the leader of the group and is brimming with energy. Throughout love, loss, and relationship issues, Ellenberger knows how to show her uncertainties as a counsellor, when to tug at your heart strings, and when to be downright obnoxious.

Lillian Ramsdale plays the bubbly Becca. A highly energetic and camper full of camp spirit. To an exten-



Stage Manager Ella Leis and Assistant Director Hannah Klose guard the snacks by the mess hall at Camp Indigo Woods. Ctrl-ART-Del completely transformed the interior of the Haliburton Legion to bring audience members back to summer camp for their latest production *The Grown-Ups*. /THOMAS SMITH staff

sive degree, Becca is ride-or-die for Camp Indigo Woods, perhaps literally by the end of the play. With Ramsdale's gigantic smile, you can see that her eyes are trying to hold back tears, steadfast by her own convictions of the camp.

I felt the most connected with Cassie, played by Jessica McCreedy-Debruin. Just as the audience is new to Camp Indigo Woods, Cassie is a newcomer to the camp. While trying to make a name for herself as a counsellor, Cassie tries to shake things up by improving the way things are done. With subtle eye movements and maintaining a confident posture, McCreedy-Debruin is excellent at hinting that she has a secret. Despite her external confidence, darkness lurks beneath. It would take the entire troupe of counsellors and an oncoming apocalypse scenario to get the truth out of her.

I left *The Grown-Ups* instantly wanting to watch it again. Perhaps I wanted to go back to camp and relive my childhood.

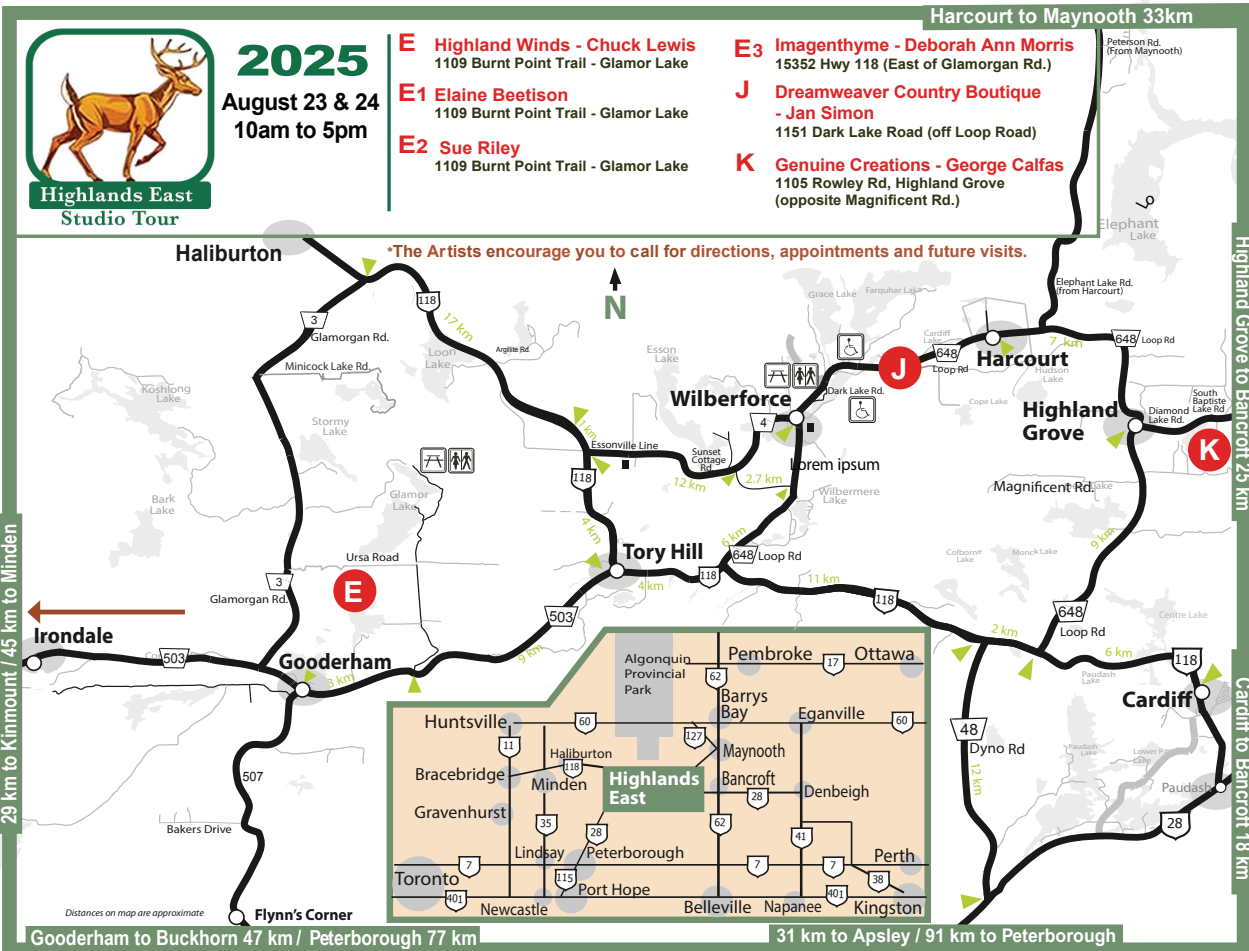
Imagine my dismay to see that the show had a limited run, only three days.

If this show were to return, it would be a disservice not to perform it at one of the local camps, around an actual fire-pit.

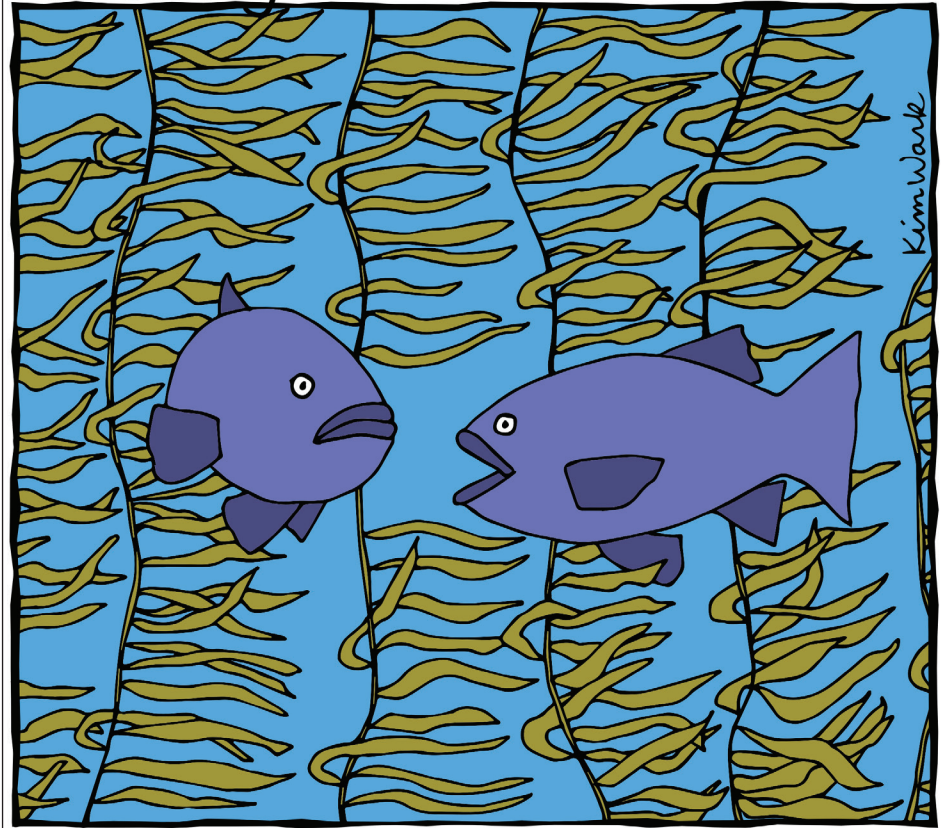
Congratulations to Ctrl-ART-Del for the wonderful production, and to the cast and crew.

Through all factors of the set design, the performance by the actors, and even the woman sitting in front of me who could name every bird from the calls played over the speakers, I was truly taken aback to my youth at summer camp.

Bravo.



Kwarky



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Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 21

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

- CLUES ACROSS
- CLUES DOWN
1. Mongolian politician

5. Coconut palms

10. Rounded knob

14. Japanese city

15. Covers in soft material

16. Walk around

17. Ancient region in Syria

18. French painter

19. Grandmother

20. Cow part

22. Rocky peak

23. Secret plan

24. Sings to one's lover

27. More (Spanish)

30. Father

31. Chinese philosophical principle

32. Hat

35. In agreement

37. A person's brother or sister

38. Evil spirit

39. Monetary units

40. Partner to cheese

41. About Sun

42. A place to dance

43. Performer _ Lo Green

44. Beach accessory

45. Recipe measurement (abbr.)

46. Partly digested food

47. Pooch

48. Honorific title added to family name

49. Salts

52. Lichens genus

55. Lowest point of a ridge

56. Type of sword

60. Albanian language

61. Gold measurement

63. Italian seaport

64. Longtime late night host

65. Extremely angry

66. U. of Miami mascot

67. Mid-month day

68. Omitted from printed matter

69. Upper body part
1. Two-toed sloth

2. Cooking ingredient

3. Iranian city

4. Publicly outs

5. Steep-sided hollow

6. Spoke

7. General law or rule

8. Extravagantly theatrical

9. Very fast airplane

10. Arm bones

11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

12. _ fide: legitimate

13. Gemstone

21. Counsels

23. Top exec

25. Cool!

26. Touch lightly

27. Extract money via taxation

28. Dyes

29. Cloying sweetness

32. Soft drinks

33. Capital of Guam

34. Chemical compound

36. The bill in a restaurant

37. Car mechanics group

38. Late comedian Newhart

40. Health care for the aged

41. Wise individuals

43. A passage with access only at one end

44. Trim

46. Former OSS

47. The upper surface of the mouth

49. Edible lily bulbs

50. Type of reef

51. Vaccine developer

52. Mottled citrus fruit

53. A place to store lawn tools

54. Rare goose native to Hawaii

57. Hollywood pig

58. Musician Clapton

59. Take a chance

61. Spanish soldier

62. Mark Wahlberg comedy

Local girls take home third in Toronto tournament

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

With a series of hockey greats calling the Haliburton Highlands 'home,' it was only a matter of time before an all-girls hockey team took the stage.

The Haliburton Lakers under-13 hockey team went to Etobicoke at the beginning of the month, and despite only four practices together as a team, the girls rocked their way to third place overall in the Queen of the Rings tournament. "They were immediately a team," said Lisa Irvine, one of the early founders of the league, and a mother to one of the young players. "They played so well together."

The Lakers are a summer hockey team, started in 2024 by Sean and Lisa Irvine and Noah Adlam. The founders saw a gap in the community, as people with daughters who play on local mixed teams, or travel to Lindsay on a regular basis to play on a girls team.

Why don't we have opportunities for girls right here in our own community, they thought.

So, they went to work. Lisa diligently designed jerseys, sorted out sponsorships, and grew the team roster, while the coaches took to the ice and welcomed 15 eager players. The girls' ages range from 10 to 13, and all with some experience in the rink, but unfamiliar with the dynamic that could be built by playing on an all-girls team.

"The vibe for girls hockey is very different," noted Lisa. "They're tough, they're strong. They know what they're doing."

Some of the teams who played at the recent tournament had been play-



The Haliburton Lakers - the first all-girls hockey team in the region - took third place during a recent tournament in Etobicoke. /submitted

ing together for months. "We only had four practices and got third place, so that shows you the kind of amazing talent we have locally," said Lisa.

Some of this talent came in the form of local hockey legend Cheyenne Degeer. Degeer was recently named Hal High's female athlete of the year, where she spent her high school career dominating the sport's world, while simultaneously captaining for Team Ontario, where she led the team to gold during the most recent Under-18 tournament in New

Brunswick.

Degeer took to the ice a few times to help the young girls out, before she jets off to New York State to further her academic and athletic career. "She's such a role model for these girls," said Lisa. "They were talking about things she had shown during practice on the bench at the tournament. They soaked her up. They loved it."

While the Lakers are only set to play for the summer months, Lisa and her husband, Sean, hope to continue to offer

hockey to school age girls on a more regular basis at a local level. "We need more support for girls hockey," said Lisa. "More opportunities to improve, to get better, and to be a team with other girls."

Lisa was sure to thank their sponsors, as well as the parents of the team for committing to the sport through the summer months. "The parents have been so great in supporting these girls," she said. "There's already been lots of growth within the team."

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OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of Marilyn Jane Billings (nee Barr)

Passed away peacefully at Extendicare, Haliburton on Sunday, August 10, 2025 with her loving family by her side, in her 80th year.

Loving mother of the late Richard “Rick” Billings (2014) (Shelley Austen), Margaret “Marg” (David) Graham, Robert “Rob” Billings (Suzanne Partridge), Maureen White, Angela Thompson (Avery Gurr). Loving GG of Matt (Laurie), Sarah (Shawn), Nicole (Brent), Lauren, Emma, Lucas, Devin (Kathryn), Kayla, Nia and Great GG of Ethan, Cole, Alena, Grayson, Cora, Liam, Aiden, Gemma, Garrison, Levi, Janna, Jethro, Nova, Evelyn, Jace and Everly. Dear sister of Marina (the late Richard), Leonard (Sharon), the late Herbert (Heather). Lovingly remembered by her family and friends.

A Private Family Visitation and Funeral Service to celebrate Marilyn’s Life was held at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427 Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Monday, August 18, 2025.

Interment at the Glamorgan Cemetery, Gooderham.

Memorial Donations to the Diabetes Canada or to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of Elizabeth Louise Carrell (nee Bird)

Passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital on Friday, August 8, 2025, at the age of 92.

Beloved wife of the late William “Bill” Carrell (2013). Dear mother of Pamela and her husband Jose Miguel Peleato, James and his wife Sheila, Suzanne and her husband Kevin Mayall. Loving grandmother of Sebastian (Susan), Nicolás (Aidan), Jean (Catherine), Andrew (Daniella), Jeffrey (Katie), Jessica (Bernie), William and great grandmother of Stella, Eliza, Quinn, Sophia, Hunter and Thomas. Dear sister of Judy, Brian, and predeceased by Angela, Joyce and Nora. Fondly remembered by her nieces, nephews, family and friends. Founding member of the Minden Horticultural Society, active member of the Minden Bible Church and the Agnes Jamieson Gallery.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, K0M 2K0 on Friday, August 29, 2025 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Elizabeth’s Life at 1:00 pm. Interment at Minden Cemetery.

Memorial Donations to the Minden Bible Church or Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation – Community Care (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family.



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**Ingoldsby by-pass
raises concerns**

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**Judge rules against
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Monday, August 24, 1992

Rotary redirects funds from hospital

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

The Minden Rotary Club has withdrawn its financial support from the Haliburton Hospital expansion fund, deciding instead to direct the money to health care development in the Village of Minden.

At their August 17 meeting the members passed a resolution asking the St. Joseph's Foundation to move the \$12,500, which the club donated to the fund six years ago, into a separate fund for Minden. The club has also asked that any interest earned by its donation also be transferred.

The fund was established to raise money for the proposed 18-bed chronic care unit for the Haliburton Hospital. That project was put on hold by the province pending a review of Haliburton County's long-term health, housing and social service needs.

Rotary Club member Jerry Rome, who also sits on Minden Council, said the decision was made because of changes in the local health care situation since the donation was made.

"When the 18 beds were being talked about, it was the only action in the county," said Rome.

The province has since approved the creation of 30 new long-term care beds for the county. The Planning and Development Committee, which is charged with deciding where the beds should be located, has decided to proceed with the Haliburton Hospital expansion to include approximately 15 of the new beds.

The project is to be financed by the expansion fund, which is being held in trust by St. Joseph's and now stands at more than \$600,000, and by up to half of the \$2.3 million committed by the province.

It is expected that some of the beds will be placed at Hyland Crest Home for the Aged in Minden, following the outcome of a feasibility study on the home and the Minden Hospital.

"It's evident the money is going to go to Haliburton Village," said Rome. "They've changed the ball game. Fifteen beds are going to Haliburton and Minden has never been mentioned. Our money is not going to serve the county as it was originally intended to do."

He said almost half of the money in the Haliburton Hospital expansion fund was raised by people in the Minden area and the Rotary Club's actions were meant to ensure that Minden's needs will be met.

Although the province has committed \$2.3 million to the creation of long-term beds in the county, the community must still come up with one-third of the capital costs.

With the \$600,000 from the expansion fund supporting the Haliburton addition, there has been no money set aside for bed development in Minden.

County Council has yet to make a final decision regarding the more than \$200,000 it set aside for the Haliburton Hospital expansion in 1986.

There were suggestions that the county's money could be used for Minden, but some county councillors think it should also go to the Haliburton Hospital, for which it was originally set aside.

Rome said a letter is being sent from the Rotary Club to the Foundation asking that the donation, plus interest, be transferred to a fund for long-term and acute care bed development in the Minden area.

"We're not trying to condemn Haliburton," he said. "Minden Rotary is trying to do something for Minden. Haliburton has its own Rotary Club."

The outcome of the vote was never in question, said Rome, and there is solid support for the decision among club members.

At last Tuesday's meeting of the Planning and Development Committee, member Doug Campbell, who is a member of Minden Rotary, informed the other members of the club's decision.

(more on page 3)



A bunch of PIGs

Karen DeGrace, Daniel Burn and Teresa Scaini didn't mind being called PIGs Saturday morning. They were three members of a Pitch In Gang of close to 40 South Lake property owners who took part in the annual round-the-lake clean-up campaign. Crews scoured roadside ditches and the lake's shoreline for litter and came up with over 30 bags of garbage.

Warden appeals for unity on health care

Haliburton - Minden hospital feud is hurting county says George Simmons

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

Haliburton County's warden has made an appeal for unity in the discussions which are underway about improvements to long-term care in the area.

At last Wednesday's meeting of county council George Simmons said the emerging feud between the villages of Minden and

Haliburton over the placement of 30 new beds is threatening to split the county. He called on the councillors to put the interest of the county ahead of their own municipalities.

"Haliburton County is stuck in the mud, and our back wheels are spinning," said Simmons. He said communities blaming one another is not helping to resolve the issue, and expressed concern that county council has

been left behind in the discussions.

"For two months we haven't been involved in the process of health care."

He asked chief administrative officer Gary McKnight to read the resolution passed by county council in 1986 which set aside more than \$200,000 to help finance the 18-bed chronic care unit at Haliburton Hospital.

The chronic care unit was shelved by the

province in 1989, pending a study of the county's health care needs. The committee which is developing long-term care in the county recently decided to ask the province to proceed with an addition to the Haliburton Hospital to house 15 long-term care beds.

Simmons outlined two objectives he

(more on page 2)

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Pictured to the right, Kinmount Lions Club served stacks of pancakes by donation to attendees at the Journey for Health on Aug. 10. Picture on the left captures Kinmount Pharmacy owner Sam Iskandar presenting Kim Restivo Galea with a cheque for the cause. /submitted



Kinmount community here for healthcare

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Despite having the odds stacked against them, the Kinmount District Health Services Foundation found success during their annual Journey for Health. "It went really well," said Kim Restivo Galea, a member of the foundation. "Considering it was a 40 degree day, and there was so much uncertainty around the forest fires."

On Aug. 10, the foundation hosted the annual event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Austin Sawmill Heritage Park in the heart of Kinmount. Traditionally, the day revolved around hiking or walking to raise funds for the organization, but in recent years several other activities have been added for the community to enjoy.

In light of the challenging weather, only a handful of participants opted into the exercise component. But this didn't slow the organization down from raising funds

for the worthy cause. "We still beat our amount from last year," said Galea with pride, noting the \$16,460 raised to date. "We think that's great."

The foundation dedicates its time and efforts towards the Kinmount and District Health Centre, and the wide array of services they offer.

But the foundation doesn't do it on their own. The organization is grateful for the ongoing support from Sam and Martina Iskandar, the owners of the Kinmount Pharmacy. In the past, the pharmacy owners have matched the highest fundraiser up to \$1500. But this year, they surprised the foundation with something a little extra special. "We were just speaking about how expensive it is for doctor recruitment," said Galea. "And they understand the challenges around that."

As a result, Iskandar very generously topped up the donation to \$10,000. This most welcomed top up will be used to support the recruitment and retention of an additional doctor that the foundation

is currently working on.

At this time, the health centre has two physicians, and also houses a variety of other services, such as physiotherapy, foot care, dental hygiene, the pharmacy, as well as a couple meeting spaces.

The facility supports patients from across the City of Kawartha Lakes, Trent Lakes, as well as Haliburton County (Minden Hills), "and the need continues for another doctor," said Galea.

She noted that they are in the process of connecting with some new physicians. "We're in some pretty positive talks with physicians who are interested," she said.

But of course, it takes a village. At the Journey for Health, Galea noted that the community showed up. Some in person, and some in the form of donations and financial contributions. "We couldn't do it without them," she said. "That's something I really noticed this year. In a time where it's difficult to donate, the community is just so generous."

On the hot August day, the founda-

tion partnered with the Kinmount Lions Club, who provided stacks of pancakes by donation, and contributed all the donations back to the organization. They also featured a face painter, a balloon artist, and Friends of the Library used book sale, who also donated some funds back.

Several health and wellness services set up information tables, and over 40 draw prizes donated by local businesses in Kinmount, Minden and Norland were won.

The local fire fighters, who have attended the event since year one, were greatly missed, while they heroically fought the wildfires burning in neighbouring communities.

Even in trying times, the purpose and cause of the foundation shines through. "The need continues," said Galea, "and it was a really good, successful day."

To learn more about the Kinmount and District Health Centre, visit hwww.kdhc.ca.



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